

THE
PEOPLE'S
ALMANAC

PEACE

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS IN THE
HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLES OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

compiled by

ELIZABETH LAWSON

\$.50

1956

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The

PEOPLE'S
ALMANAC

Compiled by ELIZABETH LAWSON


Author of *Thaddeus Stevens, Lincoln's Third Party, Samuel Adams, and Reign of Witches*

NEW CENTURY PUBLISHERS: *New York*

20¢

- New Address -
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Dedicated to the memory of
ABRAHAM MARKOFF
Teacher, comrade, and friend

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INTRODUCTION

The *Sunday Worker* feels a special pride in the appearance of this *People's Almanac* because it sprang from a project which had its inception in our pages a year ago—the Christmas, 1954, issue, to be exact. And once each month throughout the year, Elizabeth Lawson, that people's historian and pamphleteer, whose scholarship has been such a comfort to editors of progressive publications, came through with a brief and concise catalogue of dates important to the workers and farmers of our country, to the Negro people, and to all Americans who recognize the relationship between our struggle for peace and democracy and the glorious heritage of our common past.

There have been almanacs in other countries. In fact, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* says that they were born out of the Eastern people's preoccupation with astronomy and that the Romans issued them with the phases of the moon and the ecclesiastical days etched on blocks of wood. Their sale was so profitable in old England that King James I gave his favorites of the Company of Stationers the exclusive right to print and sell them. But mainly, the almanac is an American institution, having come down to us from pre-revolutionary days when *Poor Richard's Almanack*, the creation of Benjamin Franklin, was often the only reading matter, except for the Bible, to be found in the log cabins of the pioneer farmers tilling the soil on the skirts of the Eastern Seaboard.

"In 1732," Ben wrote in his autobiography, "I first published my *Almanack*, under the name of Richard Saunders; it was continued by me about twenty-five years, commonly called *Poor Richard's Almanack*. I attempted to make it both entertaining and useful, and it accordingly came to be in such demand that I reaped considerable profit from it, vending annually near ten thousand. And observing that it was generally read, scarce any neighborhood in the province being without it, I considered it as a proper vehicle for conveying instruction among the common people, who bought scarcely any other books; I therefore filled all the little spaces that occurred between the remarkable days in the calendar with proverbial sentences, chiefly such as inculcated industry and frugality."

This booklet, however, is primarily an almanac of "remarkable

days," of which there are so many that no space remains for the dates and hours of the equinoxes and the solstices, the waxing and the waning of the moon, the aspects of the planets, or conjecture upon the weather.

But the fact is that those who desire to plant seeds, or conduct their courtship, by the phases of the moon can procure that kind of almanac for a quarter, or even gratis from certain patent medicine companies. And they can get their weather from the morning paper, or the radio, or by dialing a number on the telephone. But this *Almanac* is unique; it is unobtainable except in this edition, under the imprint of New Century Publishers, and with the by-line of its author and compiler, Elizabeth Lawson.

For Elizabeth Lawson is eminently qualified to produce this sort of almanac. I first knew her as editor of the *Southern Worker*, published secretly in the early 1930's, at some unnamed country printshop somewhere on the fringes of Alabama's Black Belt, as the voice of the Southern working class crying for organization and for justice, and of the Negro masses pressing forward courageously for their rights as human beings and as Americans.

Since those days our country has made considerable progress; unions have grown stronger and more unified and the Negro people's movement is a powerful national force with which all parties are forced to reckon. The people's struggle for peace has reached a new stage with the agreements at the Geneva conference of the Big Four, and the "promise of Geneva" encourages hopes for still new social and economic advances by the people.

Throughout three decades of struggle, Elizabeth Lawson has been wholly identified with the battles of the people, her voice, her pen, her scholarship serving effectively the cause of human progress and freedom. In at least two fields she has few equals: American history and Negro history. And out of her devotion to this cause, and out of her wide learning, has come this useful and indispensable *Almanac*.

The Worker has been proud of its part in this project, and we are happy to help launch it on this new journey during which it will reach, we are confident, many new and appreciative readers.

ROB F. HALL
News Editor, *The Worker*

December, 1955

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



JANUARY

*Announced by all the trumpets of the sky
Arrives the snow; and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight; the whited air
Hides hill and woods, the river, and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.
The sled and traveler stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.*

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

January 1

1808. Congress, in response to a mass movement here and abroad, prohibited the foreign slave trade.

1831. William Lloyd Garrison began publication in Boston of *The Liberator*, one of the most powerful Abolition organs. In its first issue, Garrison wrote:

"I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—and I will be heard."

1863. The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, declaring all slaves in areas still in rebellion against the United States to be "forever free."

1869. First national assembly of the Knights of Labor, early national labor union, was convened.

January 2

1752. Birthday of Philip Freneau, poet of the American Revolution, writer and editor in the Jeffersonian cause, who wrote:

*"How can we call those systems just
Which bid the few, the proud, the first,
Possess all earthly good!"*

1920. Five thousand men and women were arrested throughout the U. S. in notorious Department of Justice "Red" raids under the direction of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Of these, 2,635 were held in jail.

January 3

1878. Birthday of Carl Sandburg, American poet, novelist, and biographer of Abraham Lincoln.

1941. President Roosevelt enunciated the Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom from fear.

January 5

1943. Death of George Washington Carver, outstanding scientist, who was born in slavery.

January 6

1937. The Abraham Lincoln brigade was formed in the U. S. to help fight fascism in Spain.

January 7

1865. First publication of the letter of the International Workingmen's Association (First International) to Abraham Lincoln, congratulating him on his re-election to the Presi-

dency. The letter was drafted by Karl Marx in London.

1939. Thomas J. Mooney, framed labor leader, was pardoned by Governor Olson of California as a result of worldwide demands during the 23 years of Mooney's imprisonment.

January 10

1776. Tom Paine's *Common Sense*, a pamphlet urging independence of the American colonies, was published, enormously influencing sentiment for independence among the masses of the people.

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again. The birthday of a new world is at hand."--FROM COMMON SENSE.



TOM PAINE WRITING "COMMON SENSE"

January 12

1876. Birthday of Jack London, American novelist and short-story writer, and socialist.

"My faith is in the working class. Some day we'll build a new habitation for mankind, in which there will be no parlor floor, in which all the rooms will be bright and airy, and where the air that is breathed will be clean, noble, and alive."--JACK LONDON.

January 13

1810. Birthday of Ernestine L. Rose, Jewish women's rights leader, campaigner for free public schools, Utopian Socialist, and Abolitionist.

1924. The *Daily Worker*, first Communist English daily newspaper in the world, began publication.



FIRST COMMUNIST ENGLISH DAILY

January 15

1822. Birthday of Isidor Bush, Jewish leader in the American Abolitionist movement.

1946. Two hundred thousand electrical workers under the leadership of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America struck 75 plants in 16 states for wage increases.

January 17

1706. Birthday of Benjamin Franklin, American printer, writer, statesman, inventor, scientist, diplomat, revolutionist.

"God grant that not only the love of liberty, but a more thorough knowledge of the rights of man, may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say: This is my country."

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.



BEN FRANKLIN—AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY

January 21

1919. General strike called in Seattle, Wash.

1946. Steel workers in 30 states struck against U. S. Steel Corporation.

1953. Thirteen Communist Party leaders were convicted in the second Foley Square trial under the thought-control Smith Act. Victims were Alexander Bittelman, George Blake Charney, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Betty Connors, V. J. Jerome, Arnold Johnson, Claudia Jones, Albert Lanson, Jacob Mindel, Pettis Perry, Alexander Trachtenberg, Louis Weinstein, William Weinstone.

January 22

1932. Five hundred tenants in the Bronx, N. Y., won a four-hour battle against city marshals and police to prevent evictions, and secured rent reductions as well.

January 23

1922. Eighty thousand workers struck in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island against wage cuts and for a shorter work week.

January 26

1863. Federal government authorized formation of regiments from among free Negroes of the North. First to be formed was the 54th Massachusetts, which included two sons of Frederick Douglass.

January 27

1948. Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, Negro mother of twelve children, was sentenced to die in the electric chair for having defended herself against the advances of a white man. Sentence was later changed to life imprisonment.

January 29

1900. Baseball's American League was organized at Philadelphia.

January 31

1793. Birthday of Lucretia Mott, Quaker preacher, active Abolitionist, and one of earliest women's rights leaders.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



FEBRUARY

*Shut in from all the world without
We sat the clean-winged hearth about,
Content to let the north wind roar
In baffled rage at pane and door,
While the red logs before us beat
The frost-line back with tropic heat.
The mug of cider simmered slow,
The apples sputtered in a row,
And, close at hand, the basket stood
With nuts from brown October's wood.*

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

February 1

1810. Birthday of Charles Lenox Remond, Negro Abolitionist leader.

1915. Carter G. Woodson and other leaders of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History initiated Negro History Week, to be celebrated one week each February.

February 2

1919. Silk workers of Paterson, N. J., struck for shorter work week. Sixteen thousand were involved during the year.

1951. Four young Negro men were executed, and three more were executed on February 5, in a mass frame-up for "rape" in Martinsville, Va.

February 3

1821. Birthday of Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman physician in the U. S. She received her medical degree in 1849 at Geneva College, later Syracuse University.

1919. Thirty-two thousand Lawrence, Mass., woolen, worsted and cotton mill workers struck for a shorter work week and no pay cut.

February 4

1869. Birthday of William D. Haywood, leader of Western Federation of Miners, early advocate of industrial unionism, founder and leader of the Industrial Workers of the World, and socialist.

1932. Unemployment demonstrations took place in all main cities of the U. S.

1937. Thirty-seven thousand maritime workers struck on the West Coast for wage increases.

February 5

1946. Police murdered two young Negro men in uniform, Charles R. Ferguson and his brother, Alfonso, in Freeport, L. I.

February 6

1895. Birthday of George Herman (Babe) Ruth, greatest baseball player in U. S. history.

February 7

1885. Birthday of Sinclair Lewis, author of *Main Street*,

Babbitt, *Arrowsmith*, *It Can't Happen Here*, and other novels of American life.

February 8

1932. New York dressmakers struck under the leadership of the united front committee.

February 9

1932. Harry Simms, member of the Young Communist League and youth organizer for the National Miners Union, was shot and killed by company thugs at Barboursville, Ky.

February 11

1913. Fifteen thousand rubber workers struck in Akron, Ohio, against speed-up.

1937. Forty-eight thousand workers of General Motors Corporation struck, using the new sit-down tactic.

February 12

1809. Birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

"That government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."—From Lincoln's Gettysburg address, November 19, 1863.

Year unknown, probably about 1817. Birthday, in slavery, of Frederick Douglass, foremost Negro leader of the nineteenth century.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. Power concedes nothing without a demand."—From an address by Douglass on West India Emancipation, August 4, 1857.

1898. Birthday of Roy Harris, American composer.

1909. A conference was held in New York which led to the formation in 1910 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

February 15

1820. Birthday of Susan B. Anthony, life-long organizer of woman suffrage and co-worker of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

February 16

1926. Beginning of the 17-week general strike of 12,000 New York Jewish furriers, in which Jewish workers formed an unbeatable coalition with Greek and Negro workers, and became the first union to win a five-day 40-hour week.

February 17

1936. Fourteen thousand Goodyear rubber workers began a sit-down strike in Akron, Ohio.

February 22

1732. Birthday of George Washington, commander-in-chief of the armies of the Revolution, first president of the United States.

"Born in a land of liberty; having early learned its value; having engaged in a perilous conflict to defend it; having devoted the best years of my life to secure its permanent establishment in my country; my anxious recollections, my sympathetic feelings, and my best wishes are irresistibly excited, whensoever, in any century, I see an oppressed nation unfurl the banners of freedom."—From a letter from Washington to the French minister, January 1, 1796.

1819. Birthday of James Russell Lowell, liberal, writer, and Abolitionist.

February 23

1787. Birthday of Emma Willard, founder of Troy Female Seminary, first successful attempt to broaden girls' education and teach them mathematics, history, geography, and science.

1868. Birthday of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, great and militant leader of the Negro people.

"I believe in liberty for all men; the space to stretch their arms and their souls; the right to breathe and the right to

Babbitt, Arrowsmith, It Can't Happen Here, and other novels of American life.

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"I believe in liberty for all men; the space to stretch their arms and their souls; the right to breathe and the right to

vote, the freedom to choose their friends, enjoy the sunshine and ride on the railroads, uncursed by color, thinking, dreaming, working."—From CUEDO, 1904.

February 25

1870. Hiram R. Revels, first Negro U.S. Senator, elected from Alabama, took the oath of office.

1881. Birthday of William Z. Foster, organizer of workers for more than half a century, chairman of the Communist Party of the United States.

1913. Twenty-seven thousand silk workers of Paterson, N. J., struck against speed-up.

1946. Negro community of Columbia, Tenn., prevented lynching of a Negro war veteran and his mother. Negro community was surrounded and its business section was destroyed and looted. Resulting charges against Negro citizens of attempt to murder, resulted in eventual acquittal.

February 27

1807. Birthday of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet and liberal reformer.

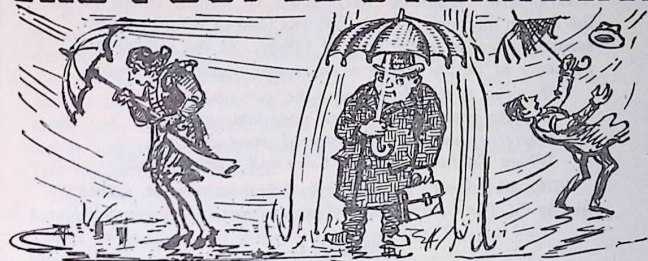
February 28

1797. Birthday of Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College, first enduring institution for higher education of women in the U. S.

1876. Birthday of John Alden Carpenter, composer.



THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



MARCH

*Tossing his mane of snows in wildest eddies and tangles,
Lion-like March cometh in, hoarse, with tempestuous
breath.*

—WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

March 1

1837. Birthday of William Dean Howells, American novelist.

March 2

1867. Reconstruction Bill was passed over President Johnson's veto, inaugurating an era of democracy and equal rights for Negro and white in the South, lasting about a decade.

1927. Death of Charles E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the Communist Party of the United States.

March 3

1930. International Workers Order was founded as progressive mass fraternal association.

March 5

1770. Five Americans were killed by British troops in the Boston massacre. First to fall was Crispus Attucks, Negro seaman, a leader in the Sons of Liberty. At the spot of the massacre in Boston stands a monument bearing the words:

*"Long as in Freedom's cause the wise contend,
Dear to your Country shall your fame extend;
While to the world the lettered stone shall tell,
Where Caldwell, Attucks, Gray and Maverick fell."*

1870. Birthday of Frank Norris, American novelist, author of *The Pit*, *The Octopus*, and other novels attacking monopoly.

March 6

1857. Supreme Court announced the Dred Scott decision that Negroes could not be citizens of the U. S. and that Congress could not limit the spread of slavery. It falsely declared that the attitude of the nation's founders was that Negroes "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

1930. Workers in main cities in the U. S. gathered in demonstrations to demand unemployment insurance.

March 7

1932. Joe York, state organizer of the Young Communist League, and three other members of the Y. C. L., were killed when Detroit police fired into a hunger march at the Ford Dearborn plant.

March 8

1908. New York East Side demonstration of working



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

women took place. The day later became established as International Women's Day.

"To emancipate woman and make her the equal of man is and remains an impossibility so long as the woman is shut out from social productive labor and restricted to private domestic labor. The emancipation of woman will only be possible when woman can take part in production on a large, social scale, and domestic labor no longer claims anything but an insignificant part of her time."—Frederick Engels, in **THE ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY.**

1937. Sixty-three thousand workers at the Chrysler Corporation struck for wage increases.

1948. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional under the First Amendment the "released time" program of 2,200 communities setting aside time and space in public schools for religious worship.

March 10

1913. Death of Harriet Tubman, born in slavery, who as conductor on the Underground Railroad brought more than 300 slaves to freedom; also a leader of the woman suffrage movement. On her monument in Auburn, N. Y., are engraved the words:

"On my underground railroad I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."



GLORIOUS HARRIET TUBMAN

March 15

1948. Nation-wide strike of bituminous coal miners began, for adoption of a pension plan.

March 16

1827. First issue of *Freedom's Journal*, first Negro newspaper in the U. S., was published in New York City.

March 17

1912. Twenty-nine thousand textile workers struck in Lawrence, Mass.

March 20

1852. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel, was published. A story of the underground railroad, it helped arouse anti-slavery sentiment the world over.

March 22

1765. Britain imposed the Stamp Act taxing the American colonies. The Sons of Liberty organized a successful boycott.

March 23

1904. Militia entered Telluride, Colo., to break mine strike.

March 25

1894. J. S. Coxey led columns of unemployed out of Massillon, Ohio, to join with 24 other columns in Washington, D. C. One thousand came on foot, by horseback, and by wagon and freight to present a petition for a public works program for the unemployed.

1911. Triangle Waist Company fire in New York City killed 146 workers, mostly women, because of unsafe factory conditions.



TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FIRE

1931. Nine Negro youths were seized near Scottsboro, Ala., and framed on charges of "rape." Their defense, begun by the International Labor Defense, aroused millions the world over, resulted in eventual freedom for all nine, and established the right of Negroes to serve on juries.

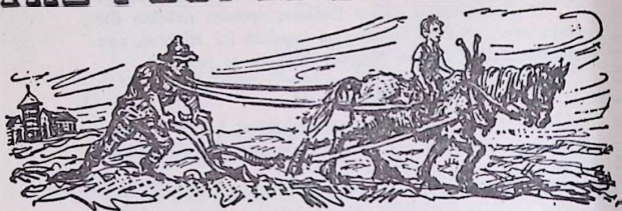
March 30

1840. The ten-hour day was established for federal employees on public works, after long struggle for the shorter workday.

1870. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, stating:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



APRIL

*When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,
And the great star early droop'd in the western sky
in the night,
I mourn'd—and yet shall mourn with ever-
returning spring.*

—WALT WHITMAN, on the death of Lincoln

April 1

1840. Liberty Party, first anti-slavery political party in the U. S., nominated James G. Birney for President.

1929. Strike of cotton mill workers began at Gastonia, N. C., under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union. During the strike, police raided the strikers' tent colony; the chief of police was killed. The strike leaders were framed for murder, convicted, later freed.

1938. Dave Doran, a leader of the U. S. Young Communist League, was killed while fighting fascism in Spain as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

1951. Forty thousand textile workers struck in cotton and rayon mills of six Southern states for wage increases, sickness and accident insurance, and pensions.

April 2

1922. First issue of the *Freiheit*, militant Yiddish daily newspaper.

April 3

1783. Birthday of Washington Irving, first great American writer of fiction.

1837. Birthday of John Burroughs, naturalist, friend of Walt Whitman.

April 4

1792. Birthday of Thaddeus Stevens, fighter for democracy and Negro rights, leader of the Left wing in Congress throughout the Civil War.

"There can be no fanaticism, however high the enthusiasm, however warm the zeal, in the cause of rational, universal liberty."—From a speech by Stevens in Congress, June 10, 1850.

1802. Birthday of Dorothea Dix, one of the earliest women social reformers, advocate of better care for the insane and imprisoned.

April 6

1917. U. S. entered World War I against Germany, an imperialistic war on both sides.

April 9

1898. Birthday of Paul Robeson, singer, actor, and leader in the cause of peace, Negro equality, and democratic rights, winner of the Stalin Peace Prize.



MARIAN ANDERSON SINGS AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL

1939. The famed contralto Marian Anderson, having been denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution, sang to 75,000 at an Easter concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

April 11

1917. Birthday of Morton Sobell, framed with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg for "conspiracy to commit espionage" and sentenced to thirty years.

1947. Jackie Robinson, first Negro baseball player with any major league team, played his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbetts Field.



BROOKLYN DODGERS SIGN UP JACKIE ROBINSON

April 12

1861. Confederacy fired on federal Fort Sumter, S. C., opening the Civil War for the perpetuation and extension of slavery. This was the only attempt in U. S. history to overthrow the government by force and violence.

1894. Birthday of Michael Gold, people's poet, literary critic, and columnist, author of *Jews Without Money*, *Change the World*, *The Hollow Men*, etc.

1937. The first of the great student anti-war strikes took place.

1945. Death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

April 13

1743. Birthday of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, fighter against the undemocratic Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, leader of the people's struggle

against the reactionary Federalist Party, and third President of the United States.

"All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately by the grace of God." From a letter written by Jefferson in 1826.



BIRTHDAY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

1919. Eugene V. Debs began serving a ten-year prison term for opposing the entry of the U. S. into imperialist war. He was pardoned by President Harding in December, 1921.

April 14

1865. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by an adherent of the Confederacy, John Wilkes Booth.

April 18

1689. Popular revolt began in Massachusetts colony against the tyranny of Governor Edmund Andros, British appointee. The people of Boston threw Andros into jail and shipped him back to England.

1775. Paul Revere rode to warn the people of Lexington and Concord, Mass., that British troops were on the way to seize John Hancock and Sam Adams, revolutionary leaders, and to take possession of American military supplies. American minutemen opposed the troops, and the battles of Lexington and Concord, on April 19, opened the American Revolutionary War.

1955. Death of Albert Einstein, one of greatest scientists in history, refugee from Nazism, fighter for peace and civil liberties.

April 20

1657. Burgomasters of New Amsterdam decided that Jews could become citizens of the colony.

1676. Nathaniel Bacon led farmers in struggle against domination of Virginia colony by a royal governor and a small group of wealthy planters.

1914. Troops killed 25 members of striking coal miners' families, including women and children, at Ludlow, Colo., in attack on tent colony.



THE LUDLOW MASSACRE

April 25

1898. U. S. formally declared war on Spain for purpose of imperialist expansion.

1945. Troops of the U. S. and U. S. S. R. met on the Elbe River in Germany.

April 27

1835. Boston carpenters struck for ten-hour day, touching off a series of nation-wide strikes.

1946. Civil Rights Congress was founded.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



MAY

*Such a starved bank of moss,
Till, that May-morn,
Blue ran the flash across:
Violets were born!*

—ROBERT BROWNING

May 1

1830. Birthday of "Mother" Mary Jones, trade union organizer and I. W. W. leader, active for more than three-quarters of a century in labor struggles.



WORLD'S FIRST MAY DAY, 1886

1886. World's first May Day demonstration held in U. S., with strikes in many cities for the eight-hour day. The date was later adopted throughout the world as International May Day.

"Bravely forward! The first of May, whose historical significance will be understood only in later years, is here."
—From an editorial in THE ALARM, Chicago labor newspaper, in 1886.

May 4

1886. Explosion in Haymarket, Chicago, resulted in frame-up of Albert Parsons and seven other leaders of the struggle for shorter hours. Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer and George Engel were hanged. Louis Lingg, also condemned to hang, committed suicide in jail. The three sentenced to prison were pardoned, in 1893, by Governor John Peter Altgeld.

"I have violated no law of this country. Neither I nor my colleagues have violated any legal right of American citizens. We stand upon the right of free speech, of free press, of public assembly, unmolested, and undisturbed. We stand upon the Constitutional right of self-defense, and we defy the prosecution to rob the people of America of these dearly-bought rights."—From Parsons' speech to the court before being sentenced.

May 5

1935. Works Progress Administration was created in the first Roosevelt Administration to provide useful work for the unemployed.

1949. Sixty-three thousand five hundred Ford workers struck the River Rouge and Lincoln plants against speed-up. Strike eventually involved 106,000 workers.

May 6

1812. Birthday of Martin R. Delaney, Negro Abolitionist, orator, author, army officer.

May 8

1945. V-E (Victory in Europe) Day brought World War II to a close in that arena.

1951. Willie McGee, Negro victim of "rape" frame-up, was murdered in the electric chair in Mississippi.

May 9

1934. Fifteen thousand longshoremen struck on the West Coast, Texas, and New Orleans.

May 10

1869. First transcontinental railway line was finished with the joining of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific at Promontory Point, Utah.



IRON HORSES MEET, 1869

May 11

1895. Birthday of William Grant Still, American Negro composer.

May 13

1607. Jamestown, Va., was founded as the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

1846. Congress declared war on Mexico in order to extend slave territory. Abraham Lincoln, then U. S. Congressman from Illinois, was among those opposing the war as unjust.

1862. Robert Smalls, Negro slave of South Carolina, ran Confederate blockade to deliver a fully equipped gunboat to the Union forces.

1916. Sholem Aleichem, great Yiddish author, died in New York City.

May 14

1863. Women's Loyal League was founded at a convention in New York to support Congressional amendment abolishing slavery.

May 17

1954. U.S. Supreme Court, as a result of more than a century of struggle, handed down a decision outlawing segregation in the public schools.

May 18

1933. Tennessee Valley Authority was created by Act of Congress, for flood control and sale of surplus electrical power at cheaper rates than electricity produced by the monopolies.

May 20

1862. Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, granting a farm of 160 acres to anyone who would work it for five years.

1933. Nine thousand rubber workers struck in Akron.

May 22

1939. Fourteen thousand workers of Briggs Manufacturing Co. struck for exclusive bargaining rights.

May 23

1909. Birthday of Robert Wesley Wells, Negro framed to die in California. Wells has been especially persecuted for his protests against Jim-Crow.

1946. Nation-wide railroad strike took place, broken by the threat to call out federal troops.

May 25

1803. Birthday of Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer, active Abolitionist.

May 26

1854. Masses in Boston attacked the Federal Court House in an attempt to free Anthony Burns, recaptured fugitive slave. Attempt failed, but it so aroused the people that no fugitive slave was ever again returned from Massachusetts.

1937. One hundred thousand steel workers and miners in mines owned by steel companies struck in seven states.

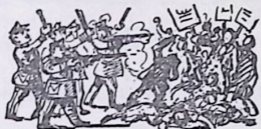
May 29

1824. Women weavers of Pawtucket, R. I., joined in first U. S. strike of men and women together.

1949. Labor Youth League of the U. S. was founded.

May 30

1932. Communist Party nominated William Z. Foster and James W. Ford as Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates. Ford became the first Negro to run for the Vice-Presidency on an interracial ticket.



REPUBLIC STEEL WORKERS MASSACRED, 1937

1937. Memorial Day massacre took place in South Chicago. During a strike for a contract, workers of Republic Steel, their wives and children, held a parade which was attacked by 500 uniformed police. Ten were killed, hundreds wounded.

May 31

1819. Birthday of Walt Whitman, poet of American democracy.

*Not a grave of the murdered for freedom but grows seed
for freedom, in its turn to bear seed
Which the winds carry afar and re-sow, and the rains and
the snows nourish.*—FROM LEAVES OF GRASS.



WALT WHITMAN BORN, 1819

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



JUNE

*'Long about knee-deep in June,
'Bout the time the strawberries melts
On the vine.*

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

June 1

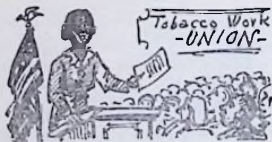
1689. Jacob Leisler led people's uprising in New York colony against tyranny of British colonial officials and wealthy merchants and landholders of the colony.

June 3

1862. United States recognized Haiti and Liberia as independent states.

1887. Birthday of Roland Hayes, Negro concert artist.

1915. Birthday of Moranda Smith, now deceased, Negro leader of Food and Tobacco Workers Union; first woman to become regional director of a union in the South.



BIRTHDAY OF MORANDA SMITH

June 6

1944. U. S. joined other Allied forces in D-Day invasion of Europe.

June 7

1937. Fifteen thousand workers of Lansing, Mich., took a "labor holiday" in protest against the arrest of pickets and won their release.

June 9

1950. First two of a group of Hollywood figures—writers and directors of motion pictures—were sent to prison for asserting their Constitutional right not to answer political questions of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Others went to jail later.

June 10

1794. Richard Allen started Bethel Church (African Methodist Episcopal) in Philadelphia, beginning of independent Negro church in the U. S.

1920. United Communist Party of America was formed at Chicago Convention.

June 13

1950. Five hundred forty editorial and business employees of *New York World-Telegram and Sun* struck for wage increases.

June 17

1873. Susan B. Anthony went on trial for casting her ballot in Rochester, N. Y., in violation of existing statutes.

June 18

1798. First of three anti-alien acts was passed by Congress. Two were eventually killed by mass pressure, after having created the first anti-alien hysteria in U. S. history.



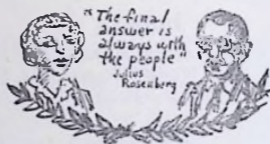
FIRST ANTI-ALIEN ACTS, 1798

1822. South Carolina began the mass hanging of 37 slaves involved in a revolt for freedom led by Denmark Vesey.

June 19

1953. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg died in the electric chair in Sing Sing, framed on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage." Throughout the world mourning was mingled with anger and revulsion at this act of the Eisenhower administration.

"We are innocent. This is the whole truth. To forsake this truth is to pay too high a price even for the priceless gift of life—for life thus purchased we could not live out in dignity and self-respect."—From the Rosenbergs' petition to the White House for executive clemency.



ROSENBERGS EXECUTED

June 21

1877. Eleven Molly Maguires, trade unionists in Pennsylvania coal fields, were hanged on framed charges aimed at destroying miners' organization.

June 22

1937. Joe Louis won the world heavyweight championship, defeating James J. Braddock in eight rounds in Chicago.

June 23

1947. Labor Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Act) was passed, destroying protection for labor formerly provided under Wagner Labor Relations Act, and placing new power in the hands of corporations to curb unions.



TAFT-HARTLEY LAW PASSED, 1947

June 25

1938. Fair Labor Standards Act became law, requiring minimum wages and time-and-one-half payment over 40 hours.

1950. U. S. began war against Republic of North Korea.

June 26

1894. American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, struck in sympathy with Pullman car shop workers.

1945. U. S. and 25 other countries became the original signatories of the United Nations Charter.

June 27

1872. Birthday of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Negro poet.

1905. Industrial Workers of the World was organized by William D. Haywood and Eugene V. Debs.

1925. International Labor Defense was organized.

1947. Dr. Edward K. Barsky, chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and ten other members of its board, convicted and jailed for contempt of Congress.

June 28

1940. Alien Registration Act (Smith thought-control and anti-alien act) became law.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



JULY

Steep thyself in a bowl of summertime.

—VIRGIL

July 1

1892. Iron and steel workers struck at Homestead, Pa. During the strike, Pinkerton guards shot and killed 18 strikers.

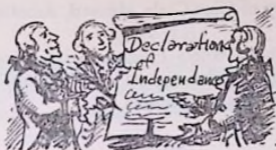
July 2

1892. People's Party (Populists) met in first national convention in Omaha, Neb.

July 4

1776. Continental Congress proclaimed the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."—From the
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.



AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE PROCLAIMED, 1776

1804. Birthday of Nathaniel Hawthorne, American novelist and short-story writer.

1900. Birthday of Louis Armstrong, trumpeter and one of the foremost of America's jazz musicians.

1924. Conference for Progressive Political Action nominated Senator Robert M. LaFollette for President.

1930. Convention of employed and unemployed in Chicago formed National Unemployed Councils to fight for home relief, unemployment insurance, and useful work projects.



UNEMPLOYED ORGANIZE, 1930

1952. Progressive Party opened its convention in Chicago. It nominated Vincent Hallinan for President and Mrs. Charlotta M. Bass, Negro editor, for Vice-President.

July 6

1935. Wagner Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing workers' right to collective bargaining, became law.

July 7

1898. U. S. annexed Hawaii to establish imperialist base in Pacific.

1911. Birthday of Gian-Carlo Menotti, American composer of opera.

1939. Workers on Works Progress Administration projects began nation-wide strike against new federal act severely limiting right to jobs on projects.

July 8

1862. Birthday of "Mother" Ella Reeve Bloor, now deceased, Communist leader of workers and farmers, whose activities spanned almost three-quarters of a century. She died in 1951 at the age of 89.

July 11

1905. Meeting of militant Negro leaders, opposing appeasement policies of Booker T. Washington, was held near Buffalo, N. Y. Resulting organization became known as the Niagara movement.

July 12

1817. Birthday of Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, fighter against slavery and all forms of oppression.

July 14

1798. Sedition Act was passed by Congress in violation of the First Amendment. It led to a reign of terror and eleven persecutions and convictions. The law expired with Jefferson's inauguration.

1939. Peter Panto, 23-year-old longshoreman, rank and file union leader, foe of waterfront rackets, was murdered.

July 15

1884. Birthday of Robert Minor, American Communist leader, greatest of American cartoonists, who died in 1952.

1931. Ralph Gray, Negro sharecropper and leader of the Share Croppers Union, was murdered at Camp Hill, Alabama.

July 16

1862. Birthday of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Negro leader who edited newspapers in Memphis and Chicago, and initiated the anti-lynching campaign of the 1890's.

1919. Ten thousand workers of International Harvester Company struck.

1934. General strike in San Francisco, involving 127,000 workers.

1936. American Labor Party was organized in New York State.

July 17

1862. Congress approved arming of the Negro people to take part in the Civil War. One of the immediate results was formation of the First South Carolina Volunteers, made up chiefly of ex-slaves, first Negro Civil War regiment.



CONGRESS ARMS NEGROES, 1862

1877. First nation-wide railroad strike began against a wage cut. In this strike, employers first used federal troops on a large scale.

1946. Maceo Snipe, Negro citizen, was lynched in Taylor County, Ga., after he had voted in the state primaries.

July 18

1919. Thirty-five thousand Negro and white stockyards workers struck in Chicago.

1955. The heads of state of the Big Four nations—the U. S., U.S.S.R., Great Britain, and France—met at Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss ways of negotiating international problems and preventing war.

July 19

1848. Women's Rights Convention opened at Seneca Falls, N. Y., called by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Convention adopted a Declaration of Women's Rights, and called for woman suffrage.

July 21

1833. Birthday of August Bondi, Jewish Abolitionist leader and member of John Brown's company in the fight against slavery in Kansas.

July 22

1849. Birthday of Emma Lazarus, Jewish poet, author of the sonnet inscribed on the Statue of Liberty:

*"Bring me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."*



EMMA LAZARUS BORN, 1849

July 24

1804. Birthday of Ira Aldridge, Negro actor of Shakespearean roles.

1954. Death of Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, once president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Women, life-long leader in anti-discrimination fights.

July 25

1946. Quadruple lynching in Walton County, Ga., of two Negro men and their wives.

July 27

1870. Death of William H. Sylvis, head of Iron Molders Union and president of the National Labor Union.

July 28

1868. Fourteenth Amendment to Constitution was declared ratified, stating:

"No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

1932. Bonus Expeditionary Force, veterans of World War I seeking the bonus that had been promised them, were attacked at their encampment in Washington, D. C., by troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, using bayonets, torches, guns, tanks, and tear gas. Two members of the B. E. F., William Hushka and Eric Carlson, were killed.

July 29

1895. First National Conference of Colored Women was held in Boston, leading to founding of National Association of Colored Women, oldest Negro women's organization still in existence.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



AUGUST

*Is there a great green commonwealth of Thought
Which ranks the yearly pageant, and decides
How Summer's royal progress shall be wrought,
By secret stir which in each plant abides?*

—JOHN MASEFIELD

August 1

1776. Francis Salvador, first Jew to die in the American Revolution, was killed in South Carolina.

1815. Birthday of Richard Henry Dana, author of *Two Years Before the Mast*, attorney, and fighter for rights of seamen.

1819. Birthday of Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*, *White Jacket*, *Billy Bud*, and other novels.

1917. Frank Little, I. W. W. organizer, was hanged by businessmen's mob at Butte, Mont.

August 4

1735. John Peter Zenger, New York newspaper publisher, went on trial for criticizing the colonial governor. Zenger was acquitted. As a result of this trial, truth became a defense in libel suits.

1810. Birthday of Robert Purvis, leading Negro Abolitionist.

1919. Fifteen thousand silk workers struck in Paterson, N. J., for 44-hour week with no reduction in pay.

August 6

1945. U. S. dropped world's first atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, opening the era of atomic threat to civilian populations.

August 7

1890. Birthday of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, organizer of workers since the age of 16, and victim of the Smith Act.

August 11

1800. Benjamin Nones, French Jew who had fought in the American Revolution, denounced the Federalists' anti-Semitic attacks on him because he was a Jew, a poor man, and a Jeffersonian Democrat. His famous letter was published in the Philadelphia *Aurora*.

1873. Birthday of J. Rosamund Johnson, now deceased, composer, author of the music of the Negro national anthem, *Lift Every Voice*.

August 12

1898. U. S., in protocol with Spain, seized Puerto Rico and Cuba for imperialistic exploitation.

August 13

1818. Birthday of Lucy Stone, one of the foremost women's rights leaders of the nineteenth century, also an active Abolitionist.



LUCY STONE BORN, 1818

August 14

1935. Social Security Act became federal law.

August 16

1920. Chicago Central Labor Union voted for general strike if necessary to block war against Soviet Russia.

August 17

1790. Jewish congregation at Newport, R. I., addressed a letter to President George Washington. It received a reply restating its main idea:

"Happily, the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

1948. Twenty-three thousand workers struck against International Harvester for overtime pay for holidays falling on off-duty days.

August 20

1619. First Negroes imported from Africa to American colonies to perform forced labor, were landed at Jamestown, Va.



NEGROES IMPORTED FOR FORCED LABOR, 1619

1786. Farmers' rebellion began in Massachusetts, where Daniel Shays and his followers marched on Springfield Courthouse to prevent foreclosing of farm mortgages.

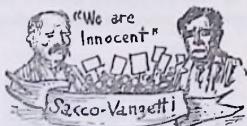
August 21

1831. Slave revolt led by Nat Turner began in Southampton County, Va.

August 22

1927. Bartholomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco, mass labor and anarchist leaders, died in the electric chair in Boston on framed charges of robbery and murder.

"I am suffering because I am a radical and indeed I am a radical; I am suffering because I am an Italian and indeed I am an Italian. I am so convinced to be right that if you could execute me two times, and if I could be reborn two other times, I would live again to do what I have done already."—From Vanzetti's last statement to the Court.



SACCO AND VANZETTI EXECUTED, 1927

August 25

1908. The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, first professional organization of Negro women, was founded.

1919. Fannie Sellins, organizer for United Mine workers, was killed in the steel strike by deputy sheriffs at Brackenridge, Pa.

August 26

1839. The ship *Amistad* was brought into Montauk, L. I., by African slaves who, on the seas, had revolted against their captors. Rebels were freed by U. S. Supreme Court.

1920. The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect. It stated:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

1871. Birthday of Theodore Dreiser, American novelist, author of *Sister Carrie*, *The Financier*, *An American Tragedy*,

at the time of his death a member of the Communist Party.

1891. Birthday of William L. Patterson, executive secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, outstanding leader in the fight for civil liberties and for equality for the Negro people.

1920. Birthday of Charlie Bird Parker, Negro saxophonist and genius of modern jazz, who died in 1955.

1949. Paul Robeson, scheduled to sing at open-air concert near Peekskill, N. Y., was prevented from performing by anti-Negro, anti-Semitic mob which attacked the audience, stoning and injuring men, women, and children. Fifteen thousand came to the successful concert on September 4, which was followed by more violence against the audience.



PAUL ROBESON AT PEEKSKILL, 1949

August 28

1955. Two men kidnapped Emmett Till, 14-year-old youth, from his uncle's home in Le Flore County, Miss. It had been rumored that the youngster had "whistled at a white woman." His body was found four days later in a nearby river. Two white men who were tried for the murder were acquitted by an all-white, all-male jury.

August 29

1939. Death of Abraham Markoff, director of the Workers School in New York.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER

*I saw old Autumn in the misty morn
Stand shadowless in silence, listening
To silence.*

—THOMAS HOOD

September 1

1800. Gabriel Prosser, Negro slave in Virginia, led mass slave revolt.

September 2

1839. Birthday of Henry George, reformer, author of *Progress and Poverty*, founder of the Single Tax movement based on the principle that taxes should be imposed on the basis of land values only.

1921. Federal troops entered West Virginia; mine owners' airplanes bombed striking miners.

1945. V-J (Victory in Japan) Day ended action in the Pacific theater of World War II.



V-J DAY ENDS WAR IN PACIFIC

1948. Longshoremen on Pacific Coast struck and were joined on November 9 by East Coast longshore workers.

September 3

1919. Socialist Party of America split at Chicago convention. Communist Party and Communist Labor Party were founded by the Left wing.

1929. Trade Union Unity League was organized at Cleveland convention.

1934. Four hundred seventy-five thousand textile workers walked out of the mills in a nation-wide strike.

September 4

1900. Workmen's Circle was founded, as labor fraternal organization.

September 5

1774. First Continental Congress met at Carpenters Hall, Philadelphia.

1882. First Labor Day parade in U. S. was held in New York City.



FIRST LABOR DAY PARADE, 1882

September 6

1832. First New England convention of farmers, mechanics and other workers opened at Boston.

1860. Birthday of Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago, social worker and leader of women's peace movement.

September 12

1932. Unemployed of Toledo, Ohio, near starvation after county authorities cut off relief, marched on groceries and seized food.



UNEMPLOYED, NEAR STARVATION, SEIZE FOOD

September 13

1858. Negro fugitive John Price was seized by slave-catchers but was rescued by students and a professor of Oberlin College, Ohio. Price was sent safely to Canada.

September 17

1787. Delegates to Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia ratified the Constitution. It then went to the states, where the people began a successful struggle for the inclusion of a Bill of Rights.

1884. Birthday of Charles Tomlinson Griffes, American composer.

1917. Twenty-eight thousand iron workers and ship-builders struck in San Francisco for a wage increase.

September 18

1850. Strong fugitive-slave bill was passed, requiring all people to become slave-catchers. Mass resistance began throughout the nation.

September 20

1903. Troops moved into Cripple Creek, Colo., to break the miners' strike.

September 22

1722. Birthday of Samuel Adams, organizer of the Sons of Liberty and the Committees of Correspondence, signer of the Declaration of Independence, one of the foremost fighters for the national Bill of Rights, exponent of Jeffersonian democracy.

"The fear of the peoples abusing their liberty is made an argument against their having the enjoyment of it; as if anything were so much to be dreaded by mankind as slavery."

—From a letter to James Warren.



SAMUEL ADAMS BORN, 1722

1776. Nathan Hale, 21-year-old American patriot, was hanged as a spy by the British during the American Revolution.

1919. United States Steel strike began under the leadership of William Z. Foster for shorter hours and right to organize. Three hundred and sixty-five thousand workers struck.

1935. Four hundred thousand coal miners walked out in a nation-wide bituminous coal strike.

September 23

1950. Internal Security Act (McCarran Act) became law, requiring the registration of all Communist and "Communist-front" organizations when ordered to do so by the subversive Activities Control Board.

September 26

1898. Birthday of George Gershwin, American composer.

September 28

1785. Birthday of Negro leader, David Walker, author of *Walker's Appeal*, 1829, a call to Negroes to struggle against slavery.

1839. Birthday of Frances Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance movement, largest women's organiza-

tion in the 19th century, which she directed into active work for woman suffrage.

September 29

1930. Four thousand textile workers at Danville, Va., struck against the "stretch-out" (speed-up) system and for the right to organize.



THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



OCTOBER

*Heap high the farmer's wintry hoard!
Heap high the golden corn!
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn!*

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

October 1

1865. World convention of workers and liberal reformers met in New York, led by Robert Owen, Utopian Socialist.

1935. Fifteen thousand milk farmers struck in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Iowa.

1946. Longshoremen struck on East, West, and Gulf coasts.



WATERFRONT WORKERS STRIKE, 1946

1949. Five hundred thousand steel workers in 29 states struck for wage increases and a pension plan.

October 2

1929. Sheriff and deputies at Marion, N. C., shot pickets in back, killing six, wounding 20.

October 3

1932. One hundred sixty-four pupils of Kincaid, Ill., high school walked out on strike when school board bought coal from scab company.

October 5

1931. Twenty-three thousand textile workers in Lawrence, Mass., began strike against wage cuts.

October 6

1918. First conference of women trade unionists adopted a platform at Washington, D. C.

October 7

1765. Stamp Act Congress in New York brought together delegates from nine colonies.

1821. Birthday of William Still, Negro Abolitionist leader and leading figure in the Underground Railroad.

October 9

1635. Roger Williams was banished from Massachusetts for preaching the separation of church and state. He led his followers to found a new settlement which became Rhode Island.



ROGER WILLIAMS BANISHED

1888. United Hebrew Trades of New York City was founded, establishing a stable center for organizing Yiddish-speaking trade unionists.

October 10

1938. Six thousand cotton pickers struck in California.

October 11

1882. Birthday of R. Nathaniel Dett, American Negro composer.

October 12

1492. Christopher Columbus, Italian navigator financed by Spain, basing himself on the new findings of science, completed the voyage from Europe that led him to the discovery of the Western Hemisphere.

1898. Striking miners drove a trainload of scabs from Virden, Ill., in a rifle and machine gun battle. For 24 years afterwards no one scabbed in an Illinois mine strike.

October 13

1843. B'nai B'rith was founded, the first Jewish fraternal order in the U.S.

1890. Birthday of Arcady Dubensky, American composer.

October 14

1880. First national convention of Farmers Alliance, forerunner of the People's Party.

1949. Eleven Communist Party leaders were found "guilty" of violating the Smith thought-control act, after a seven-months trial in New York City. They were Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Eugene Dennis, John Gates, Gil Green, Gus Hall, Irving Potash, Jack Stachel, Robert Thompson, John Williamson, Henry Winston, Carl Winter.

October 16

1859. John Brown, with 21 followers, including five Ne-

groes, attacked the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Va., striking a major blow for freedom.



JOHN BROWN AT HARPER'S FERRY, 1859

October 17

1899. Anti-Imperialist League, in convention in Chicago, issued a manifesto against U.S. seizure of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the crushing of the Philippine independence movement. Leaders in the anti-imperialist movement of the day included Mark Twain, Carl Schurz, Finley Peter Dunne, and others.

1920. John Reed, early American Communist, author of *Ten Days That Shook the World*, a history of the November Revolution in Russia, died in Moscow.

1950. Zinc miners struck at Bayard, New Mexico, involving chiefly Mexican-American workers.

October 18

1939. Fifty-eight thousand workers of the Chrysler Corporation struck for wage increases.

October 21

1850. Chicago City Council announced its refusal to enforce the federal fugitive-slave law.

October 25

1857. Marxists organized in New York the first Communist Club in the Western Hemisphere.

1934. Twenty-five thousand silk dye workers struck at Paterson, N. J.

October 27

1951. National Negro Labor Council was founded in Cincinnati, to unite Negro workers in the struggle for full economic, political, and social equality.

October 28

1886. Statue of Liberty, gift of the French people, was dedicated in New York Harbor.

1896. Birthday of Howard Hanson, American composer.

October 29

1929. Wall Street crash signalized the beginning of the worst economic crisis in U.S. history to date.



WALL STREET CRASH, 1929

1938. Three thousand men of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who had fought fascism in Spain marched through Barcelona with thousands of other volunteers from all over the world.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



NOVEMBER

*Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,
Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,
So let us welcome peaceful evening in.*

—WILLIAM COWPER

November 1

1886. Strike of slaughterhouse workers began in Chicago.

1919. Four hundred thousand soft coal miners throughout the U.S. struck for wage raises and shorter hours.

November 2

1794. Birthday of William Cullen Bryant, writer of prose and verse, fighter for Abolition.

1943. Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, leader of the Negro people, elected to the New York City Council, re-elected in 1945.

November 4

1941. Peter V. Cacchione, Communist, now deceased, was elected to the New York City Council, and re-elected in 1943 and 1945.

1855. Birthday of Eugene V. Debs, industrial union leader and militant Socialist, Presidential candidate of the Socialist Party while serving a prison term for opposing the imperialist World War I. In the elections of 1912, he won close to a million votes.

November 7

1837. Elijah Lovejoy, Abolitionist leader and editor, was murdered by a pro-slavery mob at Alton, Illinois, while defending his press. Four days before his death, Lovejoy stated in a speech:

"I have sworn eternal opposition to slavery and by the blessings of God I will never turn back. I can die at my post but I cannot desert it."



ABOLITIONIST ELIJAH LOVEJOY MURDERED

1841. Slaves on board the U.S.S. *Creole* revolted and sailed the ship to Nassau in the British West Indies. They were freed by a British court.

1934. Fiorello H. LaGuardia was elected liberal reform mayor of New York City.

November 8

1737. Anne Hutchinson was condemned to banishment by the theologians of Massachusetts colony after a trial for heresy, in which she asked for freedom of conscience as a right.

November 9

1731. Birthday of Benjamin Banneker, Negro inventor, astronomer, and a member of a committee that laid out the city of Washington.

November 11

1914. Birthday of Howard Fast, American novelist, winner of the Stalin Peace Prize.

1919. Wesley Everest, I.W.W. leader, was lynched by a mob after an American Legion parade had attacked the I.W.W. headquarters in Centralia, Wash.

November 12

1815. Birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, outstanding leader and fighter for women's rights; initiator of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, which launched the organized women's rights movement in the U.S.

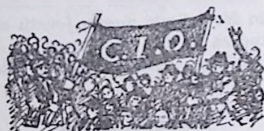
November 13

1945. First big post-war strike began when workers of General Motors walked out for wage increases, closing 96 plants.

November 14

1900. Birthday of Aaron Copland, American composer.

1938. The Committee for Industrial Organization became the Congress of Industrial Organizations at its founding convention in Pittsburgh.



C.I.O. FOUNDED, 1938

November 16

1864. General William Sherman of the Union forces started on his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Ga.

1873. Birthday of William C. Handy, Negro composer and arranger, "Father of the Blues."

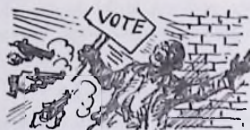
November 19

1915. Joseph Hillstrom (Joe Hill), I.W.W. organizer and troubador of labor, was executed at Salt Lake City on a framed charge of murder. On his last day of life, he telegraphed to William D. Haywood: "Goodbye, Bill. I will die like a trueblue rebel. Don't waste any time in mourning. Organize."

November 20

1920. Trade Union Educational League was founded in Chicago by William Z. Foster.

1948. Robert Mallard, Negro auto salesman and farmer, was lynched near Vidalia, Ga., for having urged Negroes to vote in primaries.



MALLARD MURDERED FOR VOTING

November 22

1909. Clara Lemlich sparked the waistmakers strike of 20,000 women in New York, mostly Jewish and Italian. The strike became known as "the uprising of the 20,000."

1939. Moissaye Olgin, editor of the Yiddish *Morning Freiheit*, died.

November 24

1954. Israel Amter, Communist leader, charter member of the Communist Party, organizer of the unemployed in the 1930's, died.

November 26

1893. Sojourner Truth, Abolitionist leader and speaker, outstanding crusader for women's rights, died.

November 29

1811. Birthday of Wendell Phillips, fighter in the cause of anti-slavery, woman suffrage, and land reform.

November 30

1835. Birthday of Mark Twain, American writer, fighter against American imperialism.



MARK TWAIN BORN, 1835

1951. Largest white-collar strike in U.S. history began when more than 12,000 members of the Insurance Agents Union struck in 35 states and D. C. against the Prudential Insurance Co.

THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC



DECEMBER

*Therefore my age is as a lusty winter,
Frosty, but kindly.*

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

December 2

1859. John Brown was executed at Charles Town, Va., for leading the attack on Harper's Ferry arsenal. In his final speech to the court, Brown had said:

"If it is deemed necessary that I should forfeit my life for the furtherance of the ends of justice, and mingle my blood further with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are disregarded by wicked, cruel, and unjust enactments, I say, let it be done."

1866. Birthday of Henry T. Burleigh, singer and arranger of Negro spirituals.

December 3

1946. General strike began in city of Oakland, Calif.

December 5

1911. John T. and James B. McNamara, officers of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Union, were sentenced to 15 years and life respectively, on a framed charge of dynamiting the *Los Angeles Times* Building. James B. died in jail.

December 6

1869. National Negro labor convention met in Washington, D. C., and created the Colored National Labor Union.

December 7

1931. One thousand six hundred and seventy delegates from all over the U.S. arrived at Washington, D. C., in a national hunger march to present demands for unemployment insurance.



HUNGER MARCH ON WASHINGTON, 1931

1941. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, leading to U.S. entry into the anti-fascist war.

December 8

1886. National trade union conference met which founded the American Federation of Labor.

December 10

1902. Birthday of Vito Marcantonio, who died in 1954, seven times elected to Congress from New York, fighter for reforms, friend of Puerto Rican independence, for many years chairman of the American Labor Party.

December 12

1870. Joseph H. Rainey, first Negro member of U.S. House of Representatives, took his seat in Congress, as representative from South Carolina.

December 15

1791. The Bill of Rights, first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect.

December 16

1773. Boston citizens, in a mass "tea party," destroyed tea on board three ships in Boston Harbor, shipped by England to enforce the principle of colonial taxation.



BOSTON TEA PARTY, 1773

December 17

1807. Birthday of John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, and fighter against slavery.

1871. Workers of New York City held funeral parade in honor of executed Communards of Paris.

1951. A delegation headed by Paul Robeson and William L. Patterson presented to the United Nations a petition charging the U.S. government with a policy of genocide against the American Negro people.

December 18

1861. Birthday of Edward McDowell, American composer.

1865. Thirteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution was declared ratified. It stated:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a pun-

ishment for crime, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

December 19

1932. Attack by sheriff and deputies, on behalf of landlords, on Clifford James, a Negro farmer of Reeltown, Ala., in an effort to seize James' livestock in lieu of mortgage payment, resulted in death of James and three others. James was a leader in the Sharecroppers Union.

December 21

1620. Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Mass., having earlier drawn up on board ship the "Mayflower Compact" in which they agreed to set up "a civill body politick" to enact laws and elect officials.



PILGRIMS LAND AT PLYMOUTH. 1620

December 22

1885. Birthday of Deems Taylor, American composer.

December 23

1776. Publication of the first "Crisis" paper, by Tom Paine, written on a drumhead by campfire while Paine was with Washington's forces. The paper began with these words:

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

1815. Birthday of Henry Highland Garnet, Negro leader in the Abolitionist movement.

December 24

1953. The reactionary McCarran-Walter immigration act went into effect.

December 25

1919. An amnesty demonstration took place in New York City for political prisoners.

December 30

1936. Sit-down strike of United Auto Workers began at Flint, Michigan.



SIT-DOWN STRIKE OF AUTO WORKERS, 1936

1957

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